GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2415
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Alcohol Consumption by Pilots
Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air India pilot and a Jet Airways pilot were found drunk during flight in August, 2016 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any inquiry was conducted into these incidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, including the penalty imposed on the pilots;

(d) whether the Government proposes to amend rules and make them more stringent for such violations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) Yes, Madam.

Air India pilot, after operating flight no. AI-998 (SHJ-CCJ) was tested Breathalyzer positive on 10.08.2016 at Calicut during Post flight medical.
Jet Airways pilot, after operating flight no. 9W 525 (AUH-MAA) was tested Breathalyzer positive on 03.08.2016 at Chennai during Post flight medical.

(b) & (c) Breathalyzer test is an objective test in itself which detects consumption of alcohol. No inquiry is usually required to be conducted in such cases.
The privileges of pilot license of both the pilots were suspended for 04 years and FIR was lodged with police for taking further legal action as per Schedule VI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(d) & (e) There is no need to amend the extant rules and regulations as adequate provisions already exist,the details of which are as follows:-

(i) Rule 24 of Aircraft Rule 1937 prohibits the consumption of intoxicating and psychoactive substances by person acting as, or carried in aircraft for the purpose of acting as pilot, commander, navigator, engineer, cabin crew or the other operating member of the crew thereof.

(ii) Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR Section 5 Series F-Part-III) has been issued for the compliance of Rule 24 of Aircraft Rules,1937 and examination of flight crew for violation of Rule 24.